

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The Cabinet reached new heights in 2005. The past twelve months of hard work and dedication have improved Kentucky's transportation system and the services we provide to the taxpayers.

KYTC awarded more than \$750 million worth of road contracts during 2005. More projects were awarded in 2005 than at any time since 2002. In fact, June 2005 was one of the highest contract lettings ever, coming in at \$190 million.

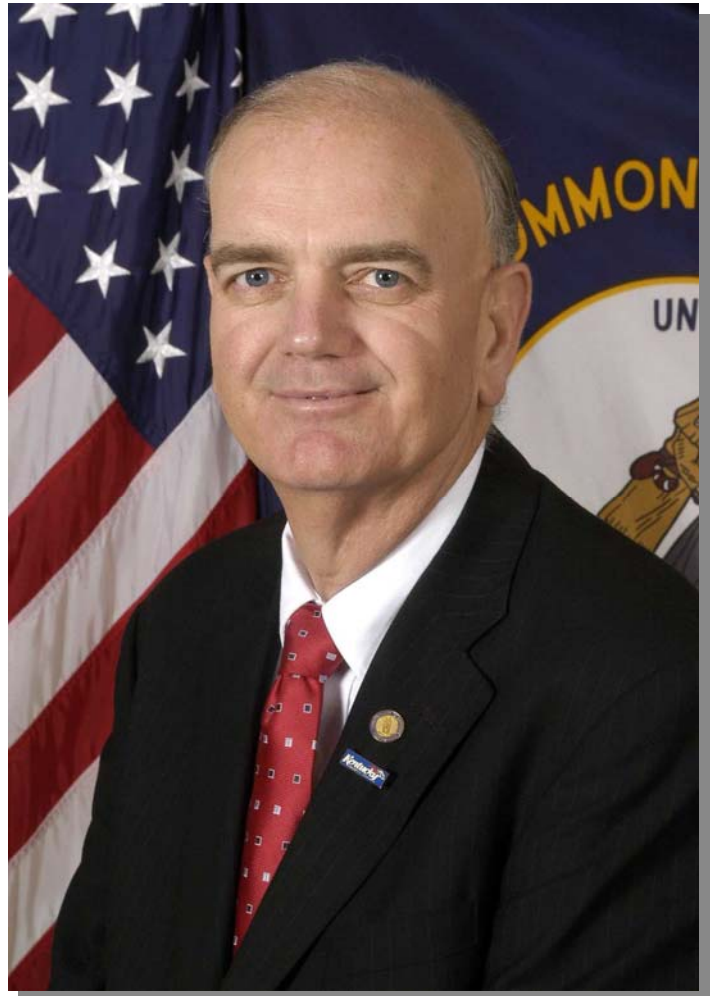
Also during last year, the Cabinet increased the number of minorities and women hired and implemented a new scholarship program as part of our affirmative action plan. In addition, a new change order process has saved the Cabinet more than \$21 million in taxpayer dollars.

Our first district "town hall" meetings and the implementation of my open office hours were especially important in 2005 in hopes that these initiatives would boost morale and open the doors of communication. As a matter of fact, the district meetings were the first such meetings ever conducted by the head of the cabinet.

Let us resolve now to make 2006 even more successful. Our main focus this year should be highway safety. Unfortunately, 2005 saw the most highway fatalities since 1973. As of January 30, 2006, the total fatalities for 2005 is 984.

Making Kentucky highways safer for motorists is a priority for the Cabinet in the 2006 legislative session. We fully support a primary seatbelt law and a graduated drivers' license program for teen drivers. We know that a primary seat belt law is the most important tool in reducing fatalities and serious injuries. Statistics also show that Kentucky has one of the highest teenage crash rates in the nation. Teenage drivers account for only six percent of the overall driving population in Kentucky, but they are involved in about 18% of the state's fatal crashes and more than 20% of all highway crashes. It is our hope that these two bills will pass in the coming months and in return save many lives.

Days even weeks throughout the year are set aside to focus on highway safety – Child Passenger Safety Week, Work Zone Safety Week, Put the Brakes on Fatalities Week, and the Lifesaver's Conference just to



name a few. Other initiatives include public awareness through advertising campaigns, highway corridor safety programs as well as the development of long term strategies to improve safety.

We recently implemented a new driver safety program which serves those who need to operate 15-passenger vans. KYTC is now offering this comprehensive online driver safety program in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Center and the National Safety Council. Participation in this training program is mandatory for any state employee who drives one of the state fleet's 15-passenger vans. In fact, after January 31, 2006, no state employee will be permitted to drive a 15-passenger van without having completed the course.

Another driver safety program is on Kentucky's horizon — the computer-based simulator training. The cabinet was able to secure a grant to purchase a driving simulator which will train mass-transit bus drivers within our public transportation system. The simulator will also branch out to our police and fire departments. Paducah Transit Authority has taken the initiative to operate and manage the training. The simulator will actually travel via truck throughout the state making it

available to all bus drivers.

We are expanding our SAFE (Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies) Patrol program to I-65 between mile points 75 and 105 in Hardin, Larue and Hart Counties. Currently, our SAFE patrol vans provide help to stranded motorists along I-64 between Frankfort and Shelbyville and on I-75 in Laurel County between exit 25 and 49.

Motorists will soon see an assortment of new license plates on Kentucky vehicles. In addition to the "Unbridled Spirit" regular passenger vehicle plate, we will soon make available Kentucky Colonel, Share the Road, League of Kentucky Sportsman and Breast Cancer Awareness specialty plates. And now, any specialty plate that is purchased will include the "Unbridled Spirit" brand.

As everyone knows, to purchase a license plate or to renew your tags, you must show proof of insurance. Despite this fact, many motorists choose to deceive the system and drive without liability insurance on their vehicles. House Bill 29 is designed to put the brakes on uninsured drivers by enabling officials to compare vehicle registration information with vehicle insurance databases to identify people across Kentucky who drive uninsured. This new law went into effect at the beginning of January.

Kentucky's aviation program is flourishing in 2006. We finished two new airports in 2005, Williamsburg airport and Marion-Crittenden County Airport and we'll

have the grand openings for these in the spring. The airport in Morehead should be completed late 2006. Construction of the new airport in Hancock County will continue through the year with an expected completion date of 2007. With hopes that we can purchase the land, we plan to break ground for the new Tri-County airport near the Kentucky Speedway in the coming months. The runways at the Hazard and Capital City Airports will be extended and new commercial airline service will begin at the Somerset airport this summer.

An excellent opportunity for us to communicate with other aviation entities is the Kentucky Aviation Conference which will take place in September. And for the first time ever, the Departments of Aviation and Education will partner to host the Teacher Aviation workshops for this summer. These workshops will show K-12 teachers how to use aviation concepts and principles to teach math, science and physics.

Through determination we can reach our goals and improve our processes to make our cabinet the best it can be. This year and years to come let us work diligently to ensure tax dollars are utilized efficiently and that the duties we undertake further our mission.

Bill Nighbert

Secretary's Open Door Session—Watch your email for the next open door session with Secretary Bill Nighbert. The weekly sessions are announced via postmaster for the upcoming week and are open to all KYTC employees. Employees will be seen on a first come/first serve basis. Your thoughts and comments are important to this administration and we appreciate your continued help and support. The purpose of these sessions is to provide employees with an outlet to voice their concerns, questions, and suggestions and to help create a more open environment within the Cabinet.